

Remarks

Claims 1-5 and 7-20 are new pending in this application. Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 7, and 12, added claims 13-20 to clarify the present invention.

The Examiner rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Applicant has amended claim 12 to ensure that antecedent basis exists for all terms. The phrase "to the user the voice of the user" is part of the passage in claim 12 stating "processing the sound to amplify the sound and feedback to the user the voice of the user without amplifying and feeding back to the user sound from surrounding sources". This passage means that the sound is processed to amplify the sound. The sound is further processed to feed back to the user of the hearing aid the voice of the user. Sound from surrounding sources is not amplified or fed back to the user of the hearing aid. In view of the above, Applicant submits that claim 12 complies with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

The Examiner indicated that claim 12 would be allowable if Applicant overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In view of the above, Applicant submits that claim 12 is now allowable. Additionally, Applicant submits that claims 13-20, which depend from claim 12 are allowable.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 7, 8 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 5,047,994 to Lenhardt et al. The Examiner rejected claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lenhardt et al. in view of U.S. patent

5,961,443 to Rastatter et al.

Applicant has amended claim 1 along the lines of allowable claim 12. Applicant submits that Lenhardt et al. does disclose the present invention as recited in claim 1 since, among other things, Lenhardt et al. does not disclose a bone conducting hearing aid apparatus arranged to be attached to a skull bone of a user with a stuttering problem so that an ear canal of the user is left free, the bone conducting hearing aid configured to receive sound and to carry out signal processing on the sound to amplify and feed back to the user a voice of the user and not amplify and feed back to the user sound from surrounding sources and a tactile component comprising a vibrator from which the processed sound is mechanically transmitted to both inner ears of the user via the skull bone. It follows that the combination of Lenhardt et al. and Rastatter et al. does not disclose the present invention as recited in claims 9 and 10.

In view of the above, the references relied upon in the office action, whether considered alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest patentable features of the present invention. Therefore, the references relied upon in the office action, whether considered alone or in combination, do not anticipate the present invention or make the present invention obvious. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections based upon the cited references.

If an interview would advance the prosecution of this application, Applicant respectfully urges the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge fee insufficiency and credit overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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